THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

August, 2022 Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is here! My family and I celebrated the Fourth of July, and I hope that you enjoyed your holiday weekend. In April, the Memphis chapter hosted the TOS Spring Meeting in person. I cannot express how wonderful it was to see friends from all over the state and to meet and bird together. I'd like to thank everyone who traveled to attend the meeting, and I'd like to give a shout out to the Memphis chapter for hosting a fabulous meeting. Well done, all! At the meeting, **TOS adopted a $10/year College Membership for all college students** (full- or part-time in graduate, undergraduate, or trade school) that will be fully digital. TOS also awarded Ron Hoff and Bob Ford with the Distinguished Service Award.

Birding Kingsport will host the Fall Meeting September 30th –October 2nd, and I hope to see many of you there. We are working on the details for the Spring 2023 meeting, and we hope to make an announcement soon, so stay tuned!

The Supreme Court has been busy the last couple months and has handed down some major decisions. Don't worry, I will not write about reproductive rights, gun rights, or religious freedom. Instead, I would like to draw attention to two political developments. First, the Court limited the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate carbon dioxide This decision will make it more difficult to meet our climate goals, but the decision is narrow. Congress can, at least theoretically, pass legislation to address climate change. And speaking of Congress, **the House passed Recovering America's Wildlife Act in June**. This bipartisan bill would raise $1.3 billion from royalties paid by energy and mineral companies operating on federal land, and money would be allocated to state wildlife agencies like TWRA to help recover threatened and endangered species. The US Senate is now considering the bill. **Senator Bill Hagerty has signed on as a co-sponsor and deserves our thanks. Please consider contacting Senator Marsha Blackburn and urge her to support the bill.**

I hope that all of you enjoy your summer and I hope to see you in Kingsport in the fall!
Warmly,
Michael Collins
President, TOS

TOS FALL STATE MEETING IN KINGSPORT
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2, 2022

The Kingsport Chapter invites you to the 2022 TOS Fall meeting to be held September 30-October 2. Friday night registration & social will be held at Bays Mountain Recreation Area. The Saturday afternoon Board meeting and dinner at 6 p.m. will be held at MeadowView.

The conference hotel is Marriott MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center, 1901 Meadowview Parkway, Kingsport, TN 37660 (I-26, exit 3). A block of rooms is reserved at a discounted rate of $129 plus taxes/fees. Make your reservations by September 2 using this link: Marriott MeadowView Hotel Reservation

A room block is also being held at Hampton Inn nearby with a $119 rate plus taxes. Breakfast is included. Call 423-247-3888 and mention TOS to make a reservation by August 30. There are also other nearby hotels – Comfort Suites, Quality Inn, and a new Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott.

We are pleased to announce the speaker following Saturday's dinner will be Paco Madrigal. Paco is co-founder & master guide of Cotinga Tours in Costa Rica. He also leads trips to Panama. Paco has over 20 years of experience guiding wildlife, natural history, and birding tours throughout his native Costa Rica.

The dinner menu is London broil, chicken, vegetables, salad, rolls, dessert, tea, and coffee.

We hope you will be able to join us. We are planning field trips for Saturday and Sunday mornings. For additional information, email birdingkingsport@gmail.com

TOS FALL MEETING 2022 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Cell phone _____

TOS Chapter _____ Office held? _____

$ _____ for ____ Registrations @ $10 each

$ _____ for ____ Dinner Reservations @ $32 each ____ Vegetarian ____ Gluten-Free

$ _____ Total amount enclosed. Make check payable to **Birding Kingsport TOS**

Is this the first time you've ever attended a TOS meeting? ____ Yes

Mail registration form and check **by September 1** to:
Birding Kingsport, PO Box 7477, Kingsport, TN 37664

RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

On June 14th, the U. S. House of Representatives voted 231 to 190 in favor of this far-reaching and bipartisan bill to conserve wildlife, creating the opportunity to make much needed federal funding, mainly via the states.

While the House has now given the green light to this effort, the Senate vote awaits. If passed, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would, among other things:

1) Provide $1.3 billion in dedicated funding annually for the implementation of state fish and wildlife agencies wildlife action plans.

2) Provide $97.5 million in dedicated funding annually for tribal agencies to work on at-risk species recovery,

3) Assign 15% of the funds for protecting the 1,673 species that are federally listed as either Threatened or Endangered.

4) Allot 10% of dedicated annual funds towards the implementation of a competitive grants program aimed at innovative conservation efforts with partners.

5) Leverage funds from state agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations to boost the power of federal conservation spending.

6) Create outdoor education and wildlife-associated recreation opportunities, using up to 15% of the available state funds.

7) Provide greater regulatory certainty for industry and private partners by proactively conserving species and avoiding the need to list them under the Endangered Species Act.

Under provisions of the bill, the greatest amount of federal funding would be distributed to the states with the greatest need. Hawaii, for example, home to almost one-third of plants and animals on the federal Endangered Species list, would receive $60 million a year, more than any other state.

The Senate version (S.2372) backed by at least 20 Democrat and 16 Republican co-sponsors – might just come up for a vote this month. Senator Bill Hagerty (R-TN) is a co-sponsor, and deserves our thanks. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) has not signed on. Now is the time to voice your opinion.

Sources:
The Birding Community E-Bulletin July 2022

An archive of past bulletins may be accessed on the National Wildlife Refuge Association website: (https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin).

ONE STRANGE RAPTOR ADOPTION

In June, webcam coverage of a Bald Eagle nest on Gabriola Island, British Columbia, recorded an adult Bald Eagle dropping a young – very much alive – Red-tailed Hawk into its nest. The hawk was likely to be ripped apart and fed to the lone eaglet in the nest.

"This bird likely came from a Red-tailed Hawk nest that was preyed upon by the adult Bald Eagles," ornithologist David Bird, a former professor of wildlife biology at Montreal's McGill University, told a radio audience on the show: As it Happens. "And the next thing you know, the little hawk bounces up and starts begging for food." Bird added, "That's what saved its life."

The pair of Bald Eagles adopted the baby Red-tailed Hawk and began raising it alongside their own eaglet. At the very start, the two young raptors kept to themselves, virtually on opposite sides of the eagle nest, and the female adult eagle didn't pay much attention to the smaller hawk. But by nightfall of that first day, the adult eagle began feeding and fussing over both young birds about equally.

During the last week of June, both semi-fledged youngsters – the eagle and the hawk – were recorded at the nest, coming, going, feeding, and often heard off screen in the background.

Courtesy of the Birding community E-bulletin July 2022

You can access past E-bulletins on the website of the National wildlife Refuge Association website: https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin

EPA UPHOLDS CHLORPYRIFOS BAN; A MAJOR VICTORY FOR BIRDS

On February 25th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) upheld its ruling to ban chlorpyrifos, an insecticide that has been shown to affect birds' abilities to fly, migrate, and reproduce. The chemical has also been linked to neurological complications in human adults and infants. Chlorpyrifos will no longer be used on food crops meant for domestic consumption – a huge victory for bird and human health.

The ruling, while impactful, does leave a loophole for chlorpyrifos to be used on food crops meant for export.

Source: The American Bird Conservancy (www.abcbirds.org)

Editor's notes:
1) TOS was a signatory on several letters in support of the ban.
2) TOS is a member organization of the American Bird Conservancy

GLOBAL BIG DAY 2022

On Saturday, May 14th, 51,455 birders from 201 countries celebrated the birds around them for Global Big Day. Together, the birding community submitted checklist reporting more species, from more countries, than ever before in a single day.

The total number of checklists submitted via eBird (eBird.org) during this 24 hour event: 132,350; number of species reported: 7,673 (nearly 75% of the world's bird species); number of photographs submitted: 63,358 (3,380 species). Birders in the United States submitted the greatest number of these checklists (85,149), followed by Canada (15,679), Columbia (8,864), India (4,088), Costa Rica (3,074), Venezuela (2,888) and Australia (2,835). Birders in Columbia reported the most species (1,538), followed by Peru (1,430), Ecuador (1,117), Brazil (1,051), India (823) and Bolivia (817) The United States reported (745).

Tennessee birders reported a total of 204 species. Joseph Hall led the way, with 116. Daniel Snell submitted the most checklists (22). The most species reported by county: Shelby (136), Montgomery (115), Blount (107), Davidson (107) and Knox (106). The most checklists submitted by county: Shelby (99), Knox (89), Davidson (69), Blount (47) and Hamilton (44).

Source: Cornell University Lab of Ornithology (eBird).
For more details: www.ebird.org

Spring Count Data Now Due

Please get the count data to me as soon as possible. Please include the following effort data:

1. Hours and miles by car, foot, and any night birding
2. Number of observers and parties
3. Any feeder watching hours & names
4. Start and end times for the count
5. Weather data for the count
6. Names of all the participants
7. Anything else about the count, i.e., record high or low numbers, extraordinary weather, all-time species total for your particular count, etc.

As always, TOS thanks the participants and compilers for their efforts in these surveys to help monitor our birdlife. These data are important and your efforts are much appreciated.

Ron Hoff, TOS State Bird Count Compiler
166 Chahyga Way • Loudon, TN 37774 • 865-567-9679
webe2brdrs@gmail.com

~ PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS ~
TOS SPRING STATE MEETING
MEMPHIS, TENNEESSEE, APRIL 22-24, 2022

Photos provided by Chad Brown & Van Harris

CHAPTER NEWS

BIRDING KINGSPORT is looking forward to hosting the Fall 2022 TOS Meeting in Kingsport on September 30th - October 2nd. We hope to see many of our fellow members from across the state!

In the past months, Birding Kingsport has hosted a program on Northern Saw-whet Owl Research at the Blue Ridge Discovery Center in Troutdale, Virginia and a program on Northeast Tennessee Eagle Nests. We also enjoyed an evening barge ride at Bays Mountain Park where a highlight was viewing a pair of Wood Ducks and their ducklings. Bird walks were held at Bays Mountain Park, Warriors' Path State Park, Laurel Run Park, Cattails at Meadowview and the Kingsport Green Belt.

Information on Birding Kingsport can be found at www.birdingkingsport.org.

Happy Birding!
Helen Sirett, President

For members of the **LEE AND LOIS HERNDON CHAPTER** of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, or Elizabethton Bird Club, 2022 has been all about seasonal birds counts and publications, among other activities.

The 79th consecutive Elizabethton Spring Count was held Saturday, May 7, with 28 observers in about a dozen parties, plus two feeder watchers. The area covered included Carter County and parts of the adjacent counties of Johnson, Sullivan, Washington and Unicoi. The weather was less than ideal, with cool temperatures ranging from 45 to 60 and mist or light rain for part or most of the day. The mountainous areas had the most rain.

Long-time compiler Rick Knight noted that participants tallied 147 species, which is slightly below the recent 30-year average of 150 species. In addition, most species were found in reduced numbers, likely due to the difficulties presented by the weather (less singing, fewer soaring birds) during the count. On the other hand, the weather may have grounded some of the shorebirds found on the count. Large numbers of swallows and swifts were foraging low over the water in different locations due to the cool temperatures.

The 29th Carter County Summer Bird Count was conducted by members and friends of the Elizabethton Bird Club, on Saturday, June 11. A total of 22 observers took part in this year's count. A total of 116 species was tallied, which is right on average for the last decade and slightly above the average of 114 over the previous 28 years, according to count compiler Rick Knight. The all-time high for this count was 123 species in 2017. A least sandpiper found on the count represents a late migrant and the first-ever June record for the species in the five-county area of upper Northeast Tennessee.

The ninth annual Unicoi County Summer Count was held Saturday, June 18, with 15 observers in five parties. Participants tallied 102 species, which is below the average of 109 species for this count.

The chapter is getting ready to publish "Great Birding Spots of Carter County," which is being funded by the Carter County Board of Parks and Recreation. Although delayed by the pandemic, the book is the culmination of work spearheaded by Roy Knispel and his publication committee.

Chapter members also held the annual summer picnic at Winged Deer Park in Johnson City on Sunday, July 10.

Bryan Stevens, Editor

CHAPTER NEWS

The **BRISTOL BIRD CLUB** (BBC) has been very busy since our last report. We are gaining membership, and our officers are doing a great job! We wish to thank Harry Norman who served as our first vice president for four terms and Ben Cowan who stepped into the role when new officers were elected in May.

Spring migration got off to a great start with several walks scheduled in April and May to Jacob's Nature Park and led by various members of the BBC, but planned and announced mainly by our second vice president, Rob Biller. We always get some great warbler and thrush finds during the walks at this park. We hosted a Chucks and Whips outing in April which was a huge success and enjoyed by all. On May 21, a trip was planned and led by Adrianna Nelson to western North Carolina including the Blue Ridge Parkway, Boone, Trout Lake, Julian Price Memorial Park, and Howard's Knob County Park. It was definitely a big birding day where both high elevation and lower elevation sites were visited. The second Thursday walks at Steele Creek Park were continued through May. We plan to resume those walks beginning in September.

Our annual summer picnic was held in June at Steele Creek Park. Seventeen members attended the picnic, which served up burgers and hotdogs along with some great side dishes to complement the feast. Food, fun and fellowship was the agenda for this outing. Lance Jessee, who is a Park Ranger at Steele Creek, gave us some great information about some of the events coming up and continuing at the park. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make this outing a success! Your effort was much appreciated and a special thanks to Michelle Sparks who always steps up to get these big events coordinated and running smoothly!

Meetings will continue for the time being as hybrid meetings, utilizing both Zoom and our new meeting place in Bristol, TN at the Summit Building (CoWork Bristol). We encourage everyone to get out and visit old and new friends at our upcoming meetings. Current information about the Bristol Bird Club can also be found on our Facebook group Bristol Bird Club.

Now let's get out there and enjoy those birds!

Debi Campbell, Secretary

The **HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER** (HRC) started the year with our annual picnic at the home of Jean and Darrell Gibson. An added bonus was all the wildlife that visited Jean and Darrell's yard, including a variety of birds. We ended our year with our annual pitch-in at the home of Marie and Kerry Slyer. Their backyard is home to a host of plants and birds. In between these two gatherings we had interesting guest speakers and we enjoyed our time together on the roadside raptors survey, the annual Christmas count, eagle count, the hawk watch at the Sewanee Mountain Cross and the Festival of Cranes at Joe Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. We are in the process of planning our programs for the upcoming year which include two new events. We are partnering with the Boy Scouts for our Bluebird Walking Trail and taking a pontoon boat out on Tims Ford Lake to duck watch. We are in the process of finalizing more field trips and guest speakers.

As we look forward to our new year, it will be with deep sadness and emptiness. Our dear friend and fellow HRC member, Dr. James Franklin Harwell, Jr. passed away June 6, 2022. Jim was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed conservation and celebrating the earth's natural beauty. Jim knew his birds, and could identify them by sight, sound and silhouette. He taught us to always have a pair of binoculars with us. He discussed the different bird books (paintings vs. photographs) and what we need to look for when we are out counting or simply birding. Jim had a wealth of knowledge, but most of all he was a friend to us all. His presence and smile will be missed. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

Janie Denis, Secretary

CHAPTER NEWS

The **KNOXVILLE CHAPTER** has continued with virtual Zoom meetings as well as some in-person events.

Club members participated in several Christmas Bird Counts in the area over the holiday season, including Norris, Seven Islands, Gatlinburg, Cades Cove, and West Knoxville. On June 1, we held a potluck dinner at Ijams Nature Center for new members to meet existing members. New officers elected in early May, including the new President, Chris Welsh, were announced and took effect at this meeting.

The group has been leading bird walks at Seven Islands, Sharp's Ridge, and Norris over the last several months. The Spring migrants seemed to be lower in number this year as they made their way through in April and May. Membership has continued to increase, and more young birders are flocking to the group.

We are looking forward to birding this Fall and enjoying the migrants that pass through our area.

Stephanie Mueller, Secretary

The **MEMPHIS CHAPTER** of the TOS hosted several interesting presentations by members at temporary locations prior to our anticipated return to St. George's Episcopal Church in Germantown in September, when we will once again resume regularly scheduled meetings.

In March, David Hill presented *Birds of the U.S. – Mexican Border*, highlighted by excellent photographs of multiple rarities. David has for many years been intimately involved in avian conservation and preservation efforts, and his passion for birds and birding is clearly evident.

In April, the chapter enjoyed Van Harris's presentation of *Madagascar: Land of Lizards and Lemurs*. Vann traveled to Madagascar in 2008 with Dick Preston. The emphasis was on endemic reptilian and mammalian species, highlighting those housed at the Memphis Zoo where Van has been actively engaged for a number of years.

The May presentation, *The Birds of Madagascar*, was made by Dick Preston. The talk included, in addition to many rare endemic species, a discussion of the geography, customs, and conservation challenges posed by this immense island habitat.

Local recent sightings of interest include a Clay-colored Sparrow in May by chapter member Ryan Pudwell, representing the first historical record of this species during spring migration in West Tennessee. Also, it is apparent that Bell's Vireos are extending their range eastward, resulting in multiple sightings and verified breeding pairs in Shelby County.

We continue to be encouraged by our expanding membership, and being ever aware of oppressive summer heat, eagerly await cooler temps and the Fall migration.

Jim Varner, MTOS President

Spring arrived in middle Tennessee and **NASHVILLE CHAPTER** TOS members took advantage of the flourish of arriving migrants and warmer longer days.

After a long COVID hiatus we were able to participate in two Conservation Outreach events in April. The first at Bells Bend at their annual Outdoor Expo and the second was a brand-new conservation event at Barfield Crescent Park's Wilderness Station. New member Mary Fitzgerald jumped right in and organized volunteers to man tables and spread the good word about birds and birding to those in attendance. We thank her for her enthusiasm and a job well done!

Susie Russenberger (1st VP & Program Chair) and Mike Smith (2nd VP & Field Trip coordinator) continued to provide our Chapter with educational programs and exciting field trips each month and we thank them both for their dedication and hard work. Check out the NTOS webpage (nashvillebirds.org) for our scheduled trips and programs, and join us if you can.

CHAPTER NEWS

Nashville - *Continued from Page 9*

NTOS also concluded our 44th year of continuous Wednesday morning Radnor Lake walks on May 11th. Over 120 people participated in these four free bird walks, most new or beginning birders. Many thanks to Pam Lasley, Danny Shelton and Ken Oeser for each leading a walk. I'm sure those NTOS members who conceived this idea back in 1977 had no idea how popular or long-lived this tradition would become! I'd like to think they'd be very pleased. Our 45th year of walks will begin on September 21st. We invite you to join us.

NTOS has also seen an increase in new memberships over the last few months. Outreach efforts, our Radnor walks, our webpage and the general increase in birding due to more 'stay-at-home' activities have all contributed to this rise. It's out hope that it will also translate into more voices working for bird and habitat conservation and perhaps even a new volunteer or two for TOS.

Finally, NTOS would like to extend our thanks to our friends in the Memphis Chapter for a wonderful Annual Spring Meeting. It was fantastic finally to be able to meet in person again and share the fellowship of birding. Kudos to all for a job well done!!

We hope to see many of you in Kingsport for the Fall TOS meeting!

Till next time,
Happy birding!
Cyndi Routledge, NTOS President

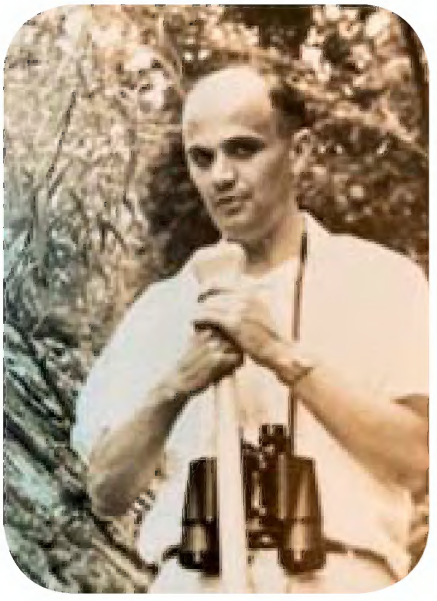
NOVEMBER 15th DEADLINE

The deadline date for the December issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is November 15th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:
Theresa Graham, Editor
(901) 489-0795
e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

IN MEMORIAM
JOHN DAVID BLAYLOCK
September 23, 1940 – April 26, 2022

David was born and raised in Oxford, Mississippi. He earned a degree in history from Vanderbilt University and received his law degree from the University of Mississippi Law School.



David had a life-long love of the outdoors and was a member of the Memphis chapter for over twenty-five years. During this time, David served our chapter as a local director, state director and president. An attorney by profession, David provided wise counsel to a succession of chapter presidents and treasurers, and I especially valued his advice: he saved me from myself on several occasions. He played a similar role as a valued member of the First Unitarian Church of the River. David's commitment to serving the community did not end there, as he volunteered with a host of local organizations, including Meals on Wheels, Adopt-a School, and Mid-South Literacy. In addition to his interest in birdwatching, David was an avid reader of fiction, theology, history and classics. He was also a lover of classical music, serving on the board of Concerts International and holding season subscriptions to the Memphis Symphony as well.

David is survived by his life-long partner and wife of 58 years, Betty Blaylock, two daughters, six grandchildren and his sister.

Dick Preston
Sue Ferguson

Photo Credit: Chad Brown